Measures to Alleviate Rural Distress

869. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food, health care and water facilities have not reached people in the remote areas like Amlashol in west Midnapore (West Bengal) where starvation deaths have been reported in June 2004; and

(b) the measures taken to alleviate rural distress at a national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) As per the information provided by the Government of West Bengal, Schemes like Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) are being implemented in remote areas of the State, as in other areas and food health care and water facilities have reached the remote areas of the State.

(b) All the programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development are aimed at alleviating the rural poverty, either directly or indirectly.

Funds needed under the PMGSY

†870. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD. Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 1,32,000 crores have been estimated to be needed under the "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadark Yojana" for linking the rural areas of the country with roadways;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the amount allocated under the Yojana by March, 2004 and actual amount of expenditure incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) As per surveys conducted to connect about 1.70 lakh eligible habitations and to upgrade existing rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, it is estimated that about Rs. 1,32,000 crore would be required.

(c) An amount of Rs. 9681.99 crore has been made available to States

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.